

Maryland Eastern Shore, which celebrates its 111th anniversary this week, commits itself to combining an excellent education with an emphasis on meeting the needs of the region by providing a doctorate in marine-estuarine-environmental science and toxicology. These are just a few examples of the strong commitment HBCU's have demonstrated throughout the years in preparing our young people for the increasingly technological and global economy.

The extraordinary contributions of historically black colleges and universities in educating African-American students cannot be overstated. They are a valuable national resource which are being rightly honored for their exemplary tradition in the area of higher education. I am very pleased to join with them and citizens throughout the Nation in celebrating National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.●

CORRECTION TO SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I submit for the RECORD a technical correction to the Senate committee allocations under section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act.

The correction follows:

Senate Committee	Direct Spending Jurisdiction (In millions of dollars)	
	FY 1998	Total FY 1998–2002
Environment and Public Works:		
Budget Authority	25,437	124,266
Outlays	2,715	10,398●

ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the sixth anniversary of the Republic of Armenia. Through the devastating genocide committed by the Ottoman Turks to the search for independence, the people of Armenia have been steadfast in purpose and spirit. Today, we celebrate the event which happened on September 23, 1991, when Armenia declared its independence from the U.S.S.R. With its new-found independence, the Republic created radical free-market economic reforms, held the first free Presidential election, and is the only former Soviet Republic that is governed by a democratically elected leader with no ties to the Communist Party. Despite the hardships that the people of Armenia have endured, they continue to hold strong to the belief that independence and security are essential for the country to prosper. Oliver Wendell Holmes once said "the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving." Although the Republic of Armenia continues to face an ongoing blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan, I am convinced it is not where

Armenia stands now but rather the perseverance which exists, that will lead Armenia into the future. Let it be known, that I encourage the citizens and Government of the Republic to remain faithful to the ideals of democracy and to continue to strengthen the relationship between Armenia and the United States.●

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1997

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9:30 a.m., on Friday, September 19. I further ask that on Friday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and that the Senate immediately resume consideration of S. 830, the FDA reform bill, with Senator KENNEDY being recognized until 10:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I also ask consent that at 10:30 a.m., Senator DURBIN be recognized to debate his amendments under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I further ask consent that at 12 noon, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators being permitted to speak up to 5 minutes, with the following exceptions: Senator COVERDELL or his designee, 90 minutes, from 12 noon until 1:30; Senator DASCHLE or his designee, 90 minutes from 1:30 until 3:00.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, tomorrow morning the Senate will resume consideration of S. 830, the FDA reform bill. Under the previous order, Senator KENNEDY will be recognized until 10:30 a.m. for debate only. As previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes on Friday.

Following Senator KENNEDY's remarks, Senator DURBIN will be recognized to offer his two amendments. Those amendments are ordered to be set aside with the votes occurring on Tuesday, September 23, at 9:30 a.m. In addition, following the debate on Senator DURBIN's amendments to the FDA reform, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business.

I thank all Senators for their attention.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JEFFORDS. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that, following the remarks of Senator KENNEDY, as under the previous consent, the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION MODERNIZATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1977

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as I understand the agreement, we have an hour for the discussion of S. 830, which is the FDA reauthorization bill. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct, Senator.

Mr. KENNEDY. I thank the Chair. I will say this evening what I have said before, and that is to commend the chairman of our committee, Senator JEFFORDS, and the other members of our committee for working out, by and large, a commendable piece of legislation to bring pharmaceuticals onto the market safely and rapidly, and to assure that Americans would be able to have the benefits of advances in the areas of medical devices.

There is a very important provision which has been included in the bill and which I think poses a very significant threat to the health and safety of the American people. I want to take some time this evening to discuss the reasons why this particular provision should be eliminated from the bill or modified to retain existing protections available under the Food and Drug Act.

I will use the time that I have this evening to try to spell out for the Senate and for those who are watching these proceedings the dangers of this provision so that, hopefully, when the Senate has the opportunity to change this particular provision on Tuesday next it will do so. It is time to make the changes that will protect the American people, and it is important that we do so.

Mr. President, this is not just a provision that I have reservations about. We have put in the RECORD, and I will mention at this time once again, that the President of the United States has indicated that this is one of four major concerns that he has in this legislation because of its potential to adversely effect the public health.

It isn't only the President of the United States who has identified this particular provision as being a danger to the health of the American people, but it is the Patients' Coalition, which is made up of patients from all over this country, who review various pieces of legislation to ensure that the patients of this country are adequately protected: the Consumer Federation of America, the National Women's Health Network, the National Organization of Rare Disorders, the American Public Health Association, Consumers Union, Center for Women's Policy Studies, the National Parent Network on Disabilities, the National Association of Social Workers, and the list goes on and on and on.